The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1602 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 51

No Strikes For Duration of War! Labor And Industry Accept Pact; Roosevelt Congratulates Both

Workers Rush To Jobs In War Zone, Eager To Help America Win the War

Thousands Swarm Employment Offices Volunteering Their Services To Build Fortifications

Washington, D. C.—Thousands of American Federation of Labor workers in all parts of the country are rallying to the nation's call for service in the Pacific Islands which are now bearing the brunt of the Japanese attack.

Men with steady jobs in defense industries, men too old to expect a draft call, heads of families and eager youngsters swarmed employment offices along both the East and West Coasts anxious for a chance to go to work building new fortifications for the gallant soldiers, sailors and marines defending Uncle Sam's territorial possessions.

Inspired by the heroic example of the workers on Guam, Wake and Midway Islands who picked up whatever weapons were at hand when the Japanese attacked and helped the U. S. armed forces fight off the invaders, these American workers did not hesitate an instant to give up safe jobs here to take their chances on the firing line.

One notable example reported to AFL headquarters concerned several hundred laborers and tunnel workers who were offered the choice of defense jobs in Bermuda or the Hawaiian Islands. Without exception, each man volunteered to go to Hawaii which is exposed to enemy bombings.

Within two days, more than three thousand registered for shipyard jobs in the Pacific war zone at the State employment office in New York City. Similar reports came from San Francisco and other ports along both coasts.

The fact that loved ones would have to be left behind was no deterrent. Neither was the fact that some were earning more than they could hope to make at the Hawaiian base. Each one wanted to do his bit at the front.

The men who pass all the tests will have their Pullman fare paid to California, along with a daily allowance for meals, and their wages will start as soon as they board ship. The government guarantees employment for six months.

A constructive suggestion was made to the Government by Secretary-Treasurer Joseph S. McDonagh, of the AFL Metal Trades Department. He urged that skilled mechanics who have been retired but are still in good physical condition and able to perform their day's work be recalled to active service.

Writing in the Department's monthly bulletin, Mr. McDonagh declared:

"We say to our skilled mechanics throughout the country during this war emergency, 'There is no need for anyone to be idle. In fact, we believe that you as American citizens owe it to your Government, and also owe it to the American labor movement with which you are affiliated, to present yourselves through your local unions, so that plants and industries which are calling for skilled personnel will know of the availability of mechanics.'

"Following this thought, we believe that it is the duty of all government agencies and also private industries which have highly skilled men who have been retired due to legislation and to the advances made in our social standards, to recall for duty all skilled mechanics who are physically able to perform the work of their crafts, irrespective of age."

A Trip To Fort Knox

By BERNARD TASSLER

Washington, D. C.—This writer has just returned from Fort Knox, Ky., headquarters of the Armored Force of the United States Army. The trip was made by a dozen labor editors and publicity men—A. F. of L., C.I.O. and unaffiliated—to whom the War Department was eager to impart some idea of what is being done as America buckles down to the job of repelling powerful enemies in both the East and West.

The trip to Fort Knox and subsequent meetings in Washington with Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson and high-ranking Army officers were part of an enlightened and unprecedented campaign which the War Department has been conducting for more than a year in an effort to breed mutual respect and understanding between labor and Army and to give defense workers a realization of the importance of their tasks, no mater how minute.

The War Department's campaign, which is bearing fruit, has embraced visits by America's fighting men to the factories where the equipment which they use is produced. Thus, Army fliers have been taken to aircraft plants, where they have seen the ships which they and their buddies will operate being built. These and similar activities on the part of the War Department have done much to make the men in uniform realize that they need the nation's workers, and vice versa.

At Fort Knox the labor journalists saw as much as could possibly be seen in 24 hours. We observed the routine of the soldiers. We ate with them and we rode in tanks, "half-tracks," "jeeps" and "peeps" with them. We put questions to them and to officers ranking all the way up to Major-General Jacob L. Devers, successor to the late Adna R. Chaffee as chief of the Armored Force.

We witnessed a sham battle with noise and violence enough to have been the real thing. We went through the Armored Force School. We were shown anything and everything that interested us. We learned a great deal at Fort Knox—and later in our conversations with Army leaders in Washington.

Of course, it would be ridiculous to pretend to be an expert on the basis of what we saw and heard, and this writer has no intention of attempting to pose as one. However, there were certain significant things which did stand out—things that can be told. They are:

1—Despite a lot of anti-labor propaganda in the press and on the radio in the months prior to Pearl Harbor, the average officer we met at Fort Knox and later in Washington seemed decidedly friendly toward labor. Of course, this might prove a great deal and then again it might prove very little, for our contacts were with only a small number, who may have been not typical.

2—Officers and men displayed an enthusiastic spirit and an eagerness to come to grips with the enemy at the earliest time. Gone was the lackadaisical attitude which we are told many of the men had manifested prior to Pearl Harbor.

3—American tanks are good—very good. In fact, according to our informants, our juggernauts are far better than the best tanks the Axis has. Naturally, the particulars of the superiority of our armored equipment cannot be printed. We were given the data, but "off the record."

4—While what we have in tanks is of excellent quality, we don't have anything like enough—not yet. The Army is confident that we will if complacency disappears and the American people realize that we are up against a tough proposition and simply have got to turn out the tools of battle seven days a week, 24 hours a day, starting now.

In welcoming the visiting labor editors and publicity men General Devers said:

"You have all heard about Guam, where the marines and the workingmen fought shoulder to shoulder. That's the kind of war this is. When a bomb falls out of the sky it doesn't care whether it kills a man in uniform or a man in overalls. We're all the same people, all the same kind of people, whether we're in the Army or in the factory producing the equipment that the Army uses. We're all in this thing together—the whole American people. We have got to realize that and act accordingly."

To which we believe American labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, will make reply thus:

"Count on us! We're in this with the Army and with all the services for the duration—until victory."

The President's Letter

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt's letter outlining the basis of the no-strike agreement arrived at by the War Labor Conference Board for the duration of the war follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.
December 23, 1941.

Gentlemen of the Conference:

Moderator Davis and Senator Thomas have reported to me the results of your deliberations. They have given me each proposition which you have discussed. I am happy to accept your general points of agreement as follows:

1. There shall be no strikes or lockouts.
2. All disputes shall be settled by peaceful means.
3. The President shall set up a proper War Labor Board to handle these disputes.

I accept without reservation your covenants that there shall be no strikes or lockouts and all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means. I shall proceed at once to act on your third point.

Government must act in general. The three points agreed upon cover of necessity all disputes that may arise between labor and management.

The particular disputes must be left to the consideration of those who can study the particular differences and who are thereby prepared by knowledge to pass judgment in the particular case. I have full faith that no group in our national life will take undue advantage while we are faced by common enemies.

I congratulate you—I thank you, and our people will join me in appreciation of your great contribution.

Your achievement is a response to common desire of all men of good will that strikes and lockouts cease and that disputes be settled by peaceful means.

May I now wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

20,000 A. F. L. Workers Take Lead In Chicago's Civilian Defenses

Chicago, Ill.—"Remember Pearl Harbor! Expect the unexpected and be prepared for any emergency!"

With those words, 20,000 AFL workers began the task of organizing the defense system that will protect the lives and property of Chicagoans in America's war crisis.

These key figures in Chicago's defense were the men and women sworn in by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, civilian defense co-ordinator, in thrilling ceremonies in the Chicago Stadium.

They were the janitors, the janitresses, the elevator operators, the school engineers, the apartment building workers, members of the Building Service Employes' International Union, called together by their president, William L. McFetridge, for a huge civilian defense rally.

Before they were certified as assistant organizers for civilian defense by Mayor Kelly, the building workers heard a dramatic speech by the city's chief executive in which he declared:

"America is at war. We're all soldiers now!

"There are no more Italians, no more Germans, no more Lithuanians, no more Rumanians, no more anything except Americans. We are all united for one cause and that unity will be the foundation of a greater democracy after this war is over."

Following the mayor's speech the audience arose and repeated after him the pledge of allegiance for civilian defense workers. Afterward they were given certificates designating their roles in the civilian defense program.

McFetridge, in a brief address, told his union:

"It is highly essential that we, who have in our hands the lives, protection and comfort of the people in Chicago's homes and buildings, do everything we can to guard the nation in every respect.

"We must be alert for possible sabotage, we must supply the needs of our workers, soldiers and sailors, and we must protect their wives and children, and we must do all we can to aid the government in conserving metals, papers and all other materials needed for national defense."

Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor, declared:

"In this great emergency, unless prevented by the withdrawal of their rights and liberties, the workers of America, east, west, north and south, will prove beyond all doubt that in strength and courage and loyalty in the places of production behind the lines, they are as steadfast as those who risk their lives in the front ranks."

Daniel D. Carmell, counsel for the Chicago and state federations of labor, said the meeting was the first of its kind to be held anywhere in the nation.

Citrine Pledges Solidarity of British And United States Workers In War

Washington, D. C.—Sir Walter Citrine, secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, pledged solidarity of British and American labor in the common cause of defeating the Axis powers in a cablegram to President William Green of the American Federation of Labor.

In an earlier cablegram, Mr. Green had informed Sir Walter that American workers were prepared to "work together, fight together and suffer together" with British workers for a triumph of democracy over totalitarianism. Citrine replied:

"Your message will give deep satisfaction and encouragement to British trade unionists. General council cordially reciprocate its expression of solidarity in the common cause.

"We share your confidence that by united and sustained effort our allied nations will with their immense resources, organizing ability and tenacity of purpose prevail over the enemy whose treachery and barbarity have brought immeasurable evils on all mankind."

All Disputes To Be Settled By War Labor Board Named By President

Washington, D. C.—Labor and industry, at the request of President Roosevelt, reached a momentous agreement barring strikes and lockouts for the duration of the war and providing that all disputes shall be settled by a War Labor Board to be created by Executive Order.

The President voiced the feelings of the entire country when he said to the conferees:

"I congratulate you—I thank you and our people will join me in appreciation of your great contribution."

President William Green, who headed the AFL delegation at the conference said:

"Labor and industry have responded to the nation's needs. We are overjoyed at the glorious outcome of these vital deliberations. Both sides have pledged that there shall be no stoppages of production for the duration of the war for any cause and that all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means.

"There is America's answer to the enemies of democracy who trusted to division and discord to weaken our defenses. We now face the foe a united nation, determined that nothing shall stop our onward march to victory."

The agreement, couched in the simplest language, represents complete victory for the representatives of labor. Both the AFL and the CIO accepted the plan the moment it was presented by Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah without reservations. The representatives of industry attempted to make the reservation that the War Labor Board to be named by the President would not be permitted to consider disputes over the union shop, thereby hoping to block extension of the union shop.

The President served notice, however, that the Government could not accept any reservations and that each dispute that arises will have to be considered on the facts and the merits by the War Labor Board.

When this word from the President was received, the industry representatives capitulated and agreed to abide by the peace proposal without any reservations.

It is believed that the new War Labor Board will consist of an equal number of representatives of industry and labor—the latter group to be divided equally between the AFL and the CIO—with an impartial chairman to be chosen by the President. The understanding is that the President will consult the AFL, the CIO and industry before appointing their representatives.

When any dispute arises, local representatives of the War Labor Board will take jurisdiction immediately and attempt to bring about a settlement by conciliation. If that fails, the Board itself will attempt to mediate matters. Finally, if the Board cannot bring about an agreement, it may call upon the contending parties to submit the dispute to final and binding arbitration.

The War Labor Conference Board took only five days to reach agreement. Almost at the very beginning, the AFL and CIO representatives reached an accord on a proposed plan which in its essentials was the one finally adopted.

As a result of the no-strike agreement, it was considered a foregone conclusion that all anti-strike legislation now pending in Congress will be consigned to the ash can.

Richardson Urges May Bill Passage For Air Raid and Fire Protection

Washington, D. C.—Shocking shortages of fire-fighting equipment and other facilities with which to protect life and property from air raid bombings exist in many American cities now in the danger zone, George Richardson, secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Fire Fighters, charged.

Mr. Richardson demanded immediate passage of the May Bill, authorizing expenditure of 100 million dollars for civilian defense against bombing attacks, as the initial move in a vitally necessary program to strengthen air raid protection in this country and its possessions.

The May Bill, sponsored by the chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee and reported favorably by that committee, gives the Secretary of War power to use the funds for purchase of gas masks, fire-fighting equipment and other supplies and materials for the protection of civilians.

In its report the committee emphasized that such supplies will be furnished only to such committees as are unable to provide for themselves.

"Our union has made a nation-wide survey of fire-fighting facilities which shows that more than 50 per cent of the existing apparatus is fifteen years old or older and hopelessly outmoded," Mr. Richardson declared.

"We started making studies of this grave problem as soon as the Nazis began their mass raids on England. In September, 1940, after having obtained from the British fire-fighting authorities the latest information on new methods of civilian air-raid defense, we wrote to President Roosevelt and urged the appointment of a fire-defense committee here to survey American needs. The President appointed such a committee and it is now operating under the Office of Civilian Defense."

Mr. Richardson, who is serving as an advisory member of the OCD Fire Defense Committee, declared that in addition to shortages of equipment there is also a serious lack of personnel.

BOR

Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 52

ent To Name War Labor Board
ls Supreme Arbiter of Disputes

nd Murray Confer With Secretary Per-
kins on Setup of New Body

gton, D. C.—President Roosevelt will announce within
the appointment of a War Labor Board, clothed with
thority to give a square deal to workers and employers
o settle all industrial disputes by peaceful means for
n of the war.
ogram, first recommended by the American Federation
as been indorsed by the CIO and agreed to by repre-
of American industry.
ity and good will prevailing and with a patriotic deter-
n all sides to step up production to the limit so that
n win the war as quickly as possible, success of the new
assured.
ng for all American Federation of Labor members and
representatives to remember is that strikes and lock-
t for the duration of the war. All disputes must be
eaceful means. The moment the President creates the
Board, proper machinery for the settlement of such
ll be provided.
t William Green of the American Federation of Labor
nt Philip Murray of the CIO conferred with Secretary
erkins for more than two hours and recommended a
f procedure for the new board for submission to Presi-
velt.
rganized labor is renouncing the exercise of the right
ring the war, the new board is expected to protect the
merican workers by adhering to the following princi-

workers are entitled to a wage sufficient to maintain full
good health and well-being for themselves and their

ties established under the Labor Relations Act, the
Act and other existing labor statutes shall not be

inuation of the normal procedures of collective bargain-
es, hours, working conditions and union security will
rfered with.
l makeup of the War Labor Board and the manner in
ll operate have not yet been finally determined. Labor
r a nine-man board, made up of four industry repre-
four labor representatives and one public representa-
ould act as chairman. However, there is a possibility
or four public representatives may be named.
s, which cannot be resolved by the normal course of
argaining, will be submitted to conciliation, mediation
y arbitration. Full use will be made of the machinery
S. Conciliation Service, now acting under the Depart-
bor and under the direction of Dr. John Steelman.
djustment of all disputes will be sought within a time
rty days to assure prompt justice.
the brightest aspects of the entire situation is the al-
in prospect that all anti-labor legislation now pending
s is doomed. Except for a few die-hard labor-haters in
Congress, there is agreement in all quarters that such
if enacted now would only cause trouble and prevent the
eration of the nation's industrial machine. Labor's
to make sacrifices and to give all-out assistance to the
r effort is greatly appreciated by President Roosevelt
ment leaders generally.

A Fine Example!

n, D. C.—Hail to the En-
rs Federal Union No.
yton, O.!
aratively small organiza-
as sent some of its mem-
ation's armed services and
d $2,000 worth of defense
its meager treasury, has
President Roosevelt a
000, the money to be used
nment for the defense of

in our small way to inspire others to an all out effort and thus insure the democracy of the United States of America and the freedom of the world," wrote George Winget, president of the AFL union.

The check was presented to Mr. Roosevelt by President William Green, who expressed his pride in the union's action. The President, Mr. Green said, "was deeply moved" by the contribution and promised to write himself to the union, thanking its members.

S WORKERS OPEN
RGANIZATION DRIVE

n, D. C.—One of the
lesser known AFL na-
—the United Powder and
ive Workers—has now be-
the key agencies in the
fense program. It has
membership in the last six
its organization drive has
such an extent that it
sistance of other AFL or-
to do the job right.
h, secretary of the union,
lls upon volunteer organ-
ntral bodies in all parts
ry where explosives, pow-
nd other types of ammu-
manufactured to help the
drive. He assures the
cooperation in all such

d Powder and High Ex-
kers recently signed the
hop agreement in the his-
munitions industry with
Munitions Company, El-
vering 1,000 workers. The
quarters are at Shelburne,

BOOKBINDERS' PRESIDENT LAUDED AS LABOR LEADER

Chicago, Ill.—In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the progress of organized labor, the friends of John B. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, recently held a testimonial banquet in his honor at the Palmer House.

Mr. Haggerty was warmly praised for his successful efforts over a quarter of a century to advance the objectives of organized labor in the printing trades industry.

Outstanding speakers at the banquet included George B. Gannett, president, George D. Barnard and Company; George W. Rosenthal, president, Printers' National Association; George L. Berry, president, International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America; Judge J. Raymond Tiffany, president, Book Manufacturers Institute; Otis H. Johnson, president, United Typothetae of America, and I. M. Ornburn, secretary, Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

e In To Special Broadcast,
United America Looks Ahead"

ngton, D. C.—All members of the American Federation of
urged to listen to a special broadcast over the Mutual Broad-
ystem from 8 to 8:45 p. m. Sunday night, Jan. 4, during which
William Green will outline labor's program for 1942.
rogram will be a symposium of opinion from labor, industry
nment representatives entitled "United America Looks Ahead

the other speakers will be Undersecretary of War Robert
, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard, Federal Se-
ministrator Paul V. McNutt, Donald Nelson of OPM, Coordi-
son Rockefeller of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, Presi-
rt W. Hawkes of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and Presi-
p Murray of the CIO.